

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (previously presented): A method of applying
photo-luminescent pigment to a substrate, said method comprising:

preparing a dry powder formulation comprising, at least, a
photo-luminescent pigment and a carrier/fixer;

5 providing a substrate having one of depression and a channel
therein, the one of a depression and a channel being adapted to
receive the dry powder formulation;

depositing the dry powder formulation onto the substrate to
thereby fill the one of a depression and a channel adapted to
10 receive the dry powder formulation, the formulation being
deposited by operation of gravity; and

heating the dry powder formulation to fuse it to the
substrate surface to thereby create a fused material.

2-3 (canceled)

4 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1
wherein a volume ratio of photo-luminescent pigment to
carrier/fixer in the dry powder formulation is such that the
fused material exhibits about the same strength and durability
5 properties of the carrier/fixer while still exhibiting
photo-luminescent properties of the pigment.

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5 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the volume ratio is about in the range of 1% to 35% by volume of photo-luminescent pigment to carrier/fixer.

6 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the dry powdered formulation is heated to a temperature above about 160 degrees centigrade until the formulation is molten.

7 (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the formulation is heated to between about 160 to about 210 degrees centigrade.

8 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the formulation is heated for approximately 10 to 20 minutes.

9 (canceled)

10 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier/fixer is a heat curable polymer.

11 (canceled)

12 (previously presented): A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the substrate is one of stamped, extruded and milled metal.

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13 (previously presented): An apparatus for applying
photo-luminescent pigment in a dry powder formulation to a
substrate having a surface which has one of a depression and a
channel adapted to receive the dry powder formulation, said
5 apparatus including:

a hopper adapted to contain the dry powder formulation, said
hopper having at least one orifice adapted to allow continuous
transfer of the dry powder formulation from the hopper to said
substrate surfaces by operation of gravity;

10 a guide rail system for locating the substrate surface in
both a fixed horizontal plane and a fixed vertical plane below
the hopper and orifice such that substrate surfaces are oriented
to permit continuous delivery of dry powder formulation
consecutive to each consecutive substrate surfaces without
15 substantial loss of dry powder formulation; and

a heat-curing system which includes an oven adapted to
contain therein at least a portion of a said substrate, said
heat-curing system providing sufficient heat to turn the dry
powder formulation into a molten mixture.

14-15 (canceled)

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16 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 which includes a support roller is mounted directly beneath said orifice and said hopper to support the substrate.

17 (canceled)

18 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said orifice is adapted to communicate snugly with the substrate surface such that the dry powder formulation is deposited only in the one of a depression and a channel.

19 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 which includes a mechanism for tapping the hopper so that any voids in the dry powder formulation are re-filled.

20 (canceled)

21 (canceled)

22 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the heat-curing system is a continuous oven process.

23 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the oven includes infra-red heating elements.

24 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in Claim 13 which includes an automatic loading means and automatic unloading means at each respective end of said guide rail system.

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25-32 (canceled)

33 (previously presented): An apparatus for applying photo-luminescent pigment to a substrate as claimed in claim 13, said guide rail system being adapted to move the substrate under said hopper in one continuous operation.

34-35 (canceled)